

Oakland University

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER *Spring 2005*

VIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

By Carl R. Osthaus

I should title these remarks "The Longest Year," for so it has seemed. The fall semester began with program reviews, both undergraduate and graduate. The department hosted an outside evaluator who spent a day and a half with the department asking questions, reviewing statistics, and listening to faculty and students. His report reflected well on our undergraduate program, but his remarks on our graduate program, while positive overall, zeroed in on weaknesses arising from an understaffed faculty running a program mostly on an overload basis. (Students are always amazed when they learn the faculty members are not paid for all directed reading and research courses taught on a one-to-one basis.) The evaluator's conclusions were hardly a surprise to historians since we have been making many of these observations for years. What can be done to solve the problems remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: the ongoing review process will generate more reports and more responses as the university's

committees weigh in on our programs. Who knows, next year may seem to be the longest year.

More troublesome was the initial start-up of a new general education system for the university. Replete with wonderful ideals but lacking utterly in the linkage of faculty resources to student need for smaller classes on new topics, the new general education system comes to us with much confusion and a new jargon of cross-cutting capacities, learning outcomes, knowledge applications, and new rules for diversity classes. Somewhere in all of this bureaucratic hoopla I know there will be effective instruction and passionate teaching on relevant subjects. Let's hope that day is not far away, and let's also hope that effective instruction arrives in part because of the new system and not despite that system.

These difficulties aside—and they are typical of academic tempests in a teapot—the discipline of history had a prominent place on campus in 2004-2005. In sponsoring or hosting history programs, and teaching, speaking, and writing history, the department acted with enthusiasm and had a most productive year. Again, for the

second year in a row, Alpha Zeta Upsilon inducted a large class of students into the history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta. For this occasion special lecturer Jace Crouch provided a humorous and insightful address on the traditional theme of "Why I Became a Historian." The department participated in the presidential leadership theme semester this past fall, teaching classes on the American presidency and hosting an outside speaker, OAH Distinguished Lecturer Joan Hoff, who gave two addresses in Professor Karen Miller's classes. We were pleased to see that once again the College of Arts and Sciences invited a historian and winner of a Pulitzer Prize—Doris Kearns Goodwin—to give the Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities. Dr. Goodwin spoke to a community audience on the moral authority of the president and to students, faculty, and staff on leadership qualities of 20th century American presidents. In recognition of African American Celebration 2005, Associate Professor Ronald J. Stephens from Grand Valley State University spoke twice on campus on aspects of Idlewild, Michigan, the visionary vacation town for African Americans. The department joined with the MA Program in Liberal Studies to arrange for National Book Award

winner Kevin Boyle to speak about *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*. Boyle's study is an account of the Ossian Sweet murder case and trial in Detroit in the mid-1920s. The department of history created its own lecture series, titled "History Comes Alive," which was a great success (see below). The lecture series will continue next year, and it is our hope that it becomes permanent. Very late in the hiring season, and despite "busyness-fatigue" factors that had accumulated throughout the academic year, the department threw itself into a national search for an American intellectual/cultural historian. We advertised, reviewed resumes, conducted phone interviews, and hosted campus visits and job talks with record efficiency and scored a major coup with the addition of Matthew Sutton (see below). Finally, there were impressive individual achievements by historians, many of them detailed in the faculty comments below. Two should be mentioned here, however. Professor Ronald C. Finucane won a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for work on the politics of saint making and Professor Sara Chapman was honored at the Faculty Recognition Luncheon on Founders' Day 2005 for research achievement—the publication of her first book, *Private Ambition and Political Alliances: The Phélypeaux de Pontchartrain Family and Louis XIV's Government, 1650-1715*.

DEPARTMENT'S LECTURE SERIES A BIG SUCCESS

Despite fears that history might die a slow death, "History Comes Alive," the department's newly-

created lecture series, was a great success from start to finish. Six OU history professors spoke on topics dear to their hearts, and the public responded with enthusiasm. The speakers and their topics are as follows: Todd Estes, "How the Small States Have Twisted the Outcome of Three US Presidential Elections and Why We Can Blame Connecticut"; Ronald C. Finucane, "The Victorian Séance: Faith and Fraud in the Late 19th Century"; Weldon C. Matthews, "From Containment to Occupation: The US and Iraq, 1990 to 2004"; Seán Farrell Moran, "One Man's Patriot is Another's Terrorist: Reflections on Violence and Nationalism in Irish History"; Linda Benson, "Shades of Genghis Khan: The New 'Great Game' Between China, Mongolia and Russia"; and Carl R. Osthaus, "Who's Buried in Grant's Tomb? Reflections on the Good General—Bad President Enigma."

All lectures were well attended. It was rewarding to see the response from alumni and current students, but the interest of the general public, which made up the great majority of people in attendance, was most impressive. It confirmed our view that history is indeed alive and that folks are willing and eager to come to campus for lectures and to exchange views on historical problems. "History Comes Alive" was made possible by generous contributions from the Berry Investment Company and Annette and John Carter. Perhaps best of all, because of the enthusiasm of the public and continuing financial support from Annette and John Carter and Virinder Moudgil, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the series will continue next year with new speakers and a variety of different topics.

U.S. INTELLECTUAL/ CULTURAL HISTORIAN JOINS STAFF

The department of history was fortunate to have hired an outstanding young historian, Matt Sutton, who will join the OU faculty this fall to fill a position in American intellectual/cultural history. Professor Sutton completed his doctoral program this spring at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he held positions as a teaching assistant and instructor. His PhD dissertation addresses religion and gender questions in the context of explaining the explosive growth of early twentieth-century Pentecostalism through a study of the flamboyant Aimee Semple McPherson, founder of the Foursquare Gospel Church. As evidence that his dissertation promises to be an outstanding book, Harvard University Press has awarded him a contract for 2006. The book manuscript is tentatively titled "Hollywood Religion: Aimee Semple McPherson, Pentecostalism, and American Culture." Professor Sutton has previously published in *Church History* and has a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Policy History*. This fall he will teach, in addition to a survey course in American history, *The American Mind to 1861*, and in the winter he will teach two survey courses and either *The American Mind since 1861* or a new course titled *Religion, Politics, and American Culture*. (Some historians are no doubt hoping that the latter course will help them understand the last election.)

RECENT FACULTY NEWS

Professor Getnet Bekele (Africa) joined OU in September 2004. He has taught two semesters of the IS 230 course (Introduction to Africa), and experimented with a total of three new courses in modern African history and African environmental history. Professor Bekele reports that his students of HST 386 (Modern Africa) and HST 390 (Environmental History) in the winter semester have been a lively, inquisitive, and fun group to teach. Several of the students from both classes produced well-argued, state-of-the-art papers. In addition to his busy first-year teaching load, he has been working as a member in the advisory council of the Environmental Health program and has made a concerted effort to maximize Kresge Library's Africana collections.

In December Professor Bekele successfully defended his dissertation after waiting for eight months. Since then he has been revising the manuscript. He would like to make at least one field trip to Ethiopia before completing the revisions for publication. He has also been revising and polishing an article on "Soil Erosion, Conservationism, and Ideas About Development in Ethiopia" that, if accepted, will appear in the *International Journal of African Studies*. At his alma mater, Michigan State University, Professor Bekele participated in two dissertation defenses in April but unfortunately has not had any time to play soccer.

In the summer of 2004, **Professor Linda Benson** (Modern China) began work on her next major book project, a study of the warlord, Zhang Xueliang, supported by a Summer Research Fellowship

from the university. She also had the opportunity to participate in a Fulbright Group Project, which took her to Mongolia in June to collect information on that country's transition from a socialist system to a market economy. It was her first visit and, she reports, it proved to be a very rewarding, if tiring, experience.

During the academic year, Linda gave two papers. The first focused on missionaries in northwestern China and was presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society annual meeting at Indiana University in October 2004. The other paper, on British consuls and missionaries in Xinjiang, China in the republican era, was presented at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Chicago at the end of March 2005. Both conferences are refereed.

Linda has received a university developmental leave for the winter semester of 2006 and will be creating a new course on the historical role of Central Eurasia in relations between East and West.

Her book chapter on British missionary Alice Mildred Cable will appear this spring in Kathleen Lodwick, ed., *The Missionary Kaleidoscope*.

Professor Sara Chapman (Early Modern France and Europe) launched her new research project on early French colonial history by presenting a paper on French colonial policy and slavery in the Caribbean ("Slavery, Sugar, and the Code Noir: Saint-Domingue and French Colonial Policy, 1670-1715") at the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies held at the national library in Paris, France last June. She also participated in a round-table presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for French

Historical Studies in San Francisco in March 2005. That conference session brought together several scholars who recently published works that revised the idea of "absolutism" during the reign of King Louis XIV.

Sara has been awarded a Summer Research Grant from OU and will be in Paris in June and July doing research in regional archives for her book projects on French colonial policy in the Great Lakes (1650-1760s) and the French founding of Detroit in 1701.

She was also elected to the governing council of the Western Society for French Historical Studies, which is one of the two major professional organizations for French historians in the US.

Professor Dan Clark (US Labor) reports that his oral history project with retired autoworkers received spurts of attention and periods of neglect during the year. He managed to overcome, mostly, the hurdles of transcribing accents from Alabama, England, and Poland but had difficulties with those caused by chaws of tobacco and traffic noise outside a coffee shop. He suspects that the synthesis that is floating around in his head will have to wait until his sabbatical semester to find its way to paper. A number of students have provided excellent interview leads in the past several months, and he's grateful for the help and interest. A key theme that has emerged in the oral history project has been the multi-dimensional lives of autoworkers. Whereas most historians have taken it for granted that autoworkers should have been concerned only about the workplace, all of the people he's interviewed had much fuller, richer, and often more frustrating lives than we have been led to believe. With that in mind, readers who continue on may

detect support for the notion that all history is, at some level, autobiographical.

With a high school junior and an 8th grader, Dan's life is busy with activities like choir concerts, basketball games, math homework, learning to drive, and researching colleges. Dan confesses that his math skills have deteriorated to the point that he's useless at the high school level, but can still ace 8th-grade story problems. He honestly did not pick his high schooler's AP history term paper—Wal-Mart and gender discrimination—but he did enjoy his son's quest for sources. He even drove home via the state AFL-CIO office in Detroit to pick up a box of documents for the cause. The boys appreciate his advice on grammar and syntax in their written work, but they are somewhat less receptive to insights regarding laundry and dishes. One of them has an uncanny knack of wanting to talk only if Dan's been sitting at the computer for five minutes. Indirectly, they'll both be in every page of the book.

Professor Jace Crouch

(Ancient/Medieval Europe) sends us the following communication: "I continue to work on Isidore of Seville (d. 636) and early medieval European intellectual, legal and religious history. I have not yet delivered my book on Isidore to the publisher; I have this ridiculous fetish about getting it 'just exactly perfect,' which really is unnecessary. That's what editors are for, as my editor continues to remind me. Conference papers in the next year or so will continue to focus on Isidore and medieval law, as well as Marian devotion in seventh century Iberian writers such as Isidore of Seville, Ildefonsus of Toledo, and Julian of Toledo. In a longer-term project, I have begun work on the role of liturgies in intellectual formation during the early Middle

Ages, starting of course with Visigothic Spain. It is all too easy for people living in a modern, secularist, and anti-clericalist society such as the United States to misapprehend the importance of the liturgies of mass and the hours.

"On a somewhat tangential line, during the middle of the winter semester in 2005 I pestered several colleagues (Mary, Karen, Dan) about why there were so many editions of medieval Spanish legal and liturgical texts in Mexico and the US Southwest in the 18th and 19th centuries, including Visigothic and Mozarabic period texts from the early Middle Ages. Well, the answer turned out to be a lot simpler than suspected. The Catholic Church has always been, happily enough, a trans-national or supra-national organization, and many of the people who were abbots, bishops, schoolmasters, and missionaries in Spanish and Portuguese America during the 15th through 19th centuries spent part of their ecclesiastical careers in Europe, and their scholarly activities wound up being spread out spatially over three continents—four continents in the case of early Jesuit scholars. Accordingly, early in their careers F.A. Lorenzana and F. Fabian y Fuero were bishops in Mexico, where in 1770 they published excellent editions of Visigothic and Mozarabic sacramentaries (remember that Alta California was then part of Mexico), and later in their careers they became bishops of Toledo and other sees in Spain, where they continued their scholarly activities. Also, as is properly the case with scholars, whether these churchmen were active in Mexico or Peru or Spain, they left behind not only their scholarly writings, but also a generation or so of students, many of whom were also scholars in addition to being priests, bishops, or missionaries. As regards who actually

purchased these Spanish-American editions of Old Spanish legal and liturgical texts, these excellent critical editions were purchased as avidly by European scholars as Spanish-American scholars purchased volumes of European scholarly writings. Said less gently, the Spanish and Portuguese civilizations of the Americas were full-fledged members of and participants in European and Renaissance and Baroque and Enlightenment civilization. There's much more to Latin America than Zorro and Zapata."

In the summer of 2004, **Professor De Witt Dykes** (African American, US Urban, Family and Gender) completed thirty-five years of teaching at OU (1969-2004). He not only has taught general American history, but also has developed several other courses. His survey History of the African American People attracts large numbers of students. Also popular are Professor Dykes' courses on the History of American Families, where students research and write the history of their individual families, and the History of American Cities, which requires students to research a nearby city or town.

De Witt is noted for his extensive involvement with community organizations and institutions. He was a member of an academic team of consultants who advised the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History on the planning of a new exhibit. The advising took place from the fall of 2003 until the opening of the exhibit, "And Still We Rise," in November 2004. The governor of Michigan appointed De Witt to the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission in 2002. He served as Vice-Chair and completed his term in 2004. De Witt also completed a six-year term as a Trustee of the Historical Society of Michigan in 2004. He

continues as a trustee of the Detroit Historical Museum and as a member of the Great Lakes Board for the Wayne State University Press and the City of Detroit's Historic Designation Advisory Board.

In 2004 he authored several articles in *African American Architects*, including one on his father, the Reverend De Witt S. Dykes, Sr. He's been invited to write another biographical article on his father for *African American National Biography*, edited by the Harvard University Afro-American Studies Program and to be published by Oxford University Press.

In July 2004 Professor Dykes spoke on "Youth in the Civil Rights Movement" at Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church in Westland, MI. Later he gave an illustrated slide lecture on the Underground Railroad at the Southfield Public Library, at Saint Clair Community College in Port Huron, and at the Washington District Library in Romeo, MI. For the annual black history luncheon sponsored by Pontiac Northern High School, he discussed "How Africans Became African Americans." De Witt gave talks on different aspects of African American genealogy to the Library Network in Plymouth, MI, at the Genealogy Conference sponsored by the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Bloomfield Hills, at the Genessee District Library in Flint, at the Southfield Public Library, and at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Professor Dykes was interviewed about his organizational involvement and his speaking to community groups on the Newsmakers segment of the Headline News on Comcast Cable Television. The interview was shown intermittently from January 31 through February 6,

2005. He is currently researching a book on African Americans in Michigan.

Professor Todd Estes (Early US), who eagerly awaits the appearance in print of his book on the Jay Treaty debate this fall, has been working on a variety of research projects connected to the Constitution and the founding. Last summer he presented a paper, "Framing *The Federalist*: Rhetorical Strategies in the Ratification Debate," at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) conference at Brown University. In October he presented a version of another recent research project for our "History Comes Alive" series in a talk entitled "How the Small States Have Twisted the Outcome of Three US Presidential Elections and Why We Can Blame Connecticut." This talk was based on his research into what he terms "the Connecticut effect," stemming from the overrepresentation of the small states in the Electoral College and the origins of that effect in the 1787 Philadelphia Constitutional Convention. A third project under way involves a reconsideration of James Madison's 37th *Federalist* paper, an essay that is sometimes overlooked by scholars but which has multiple significances for understanding Madison's role in the founding.

Moving from the early American political world to the current one, he published an essay on the 2004 election, "The Blue States and the Red States: Scouting the Electoral Map at the Outset of the 2004 Presidential Campaign," in the fall 2004 issue of *The Oakland Journal*. However, just after he finally kicked his debilitating addiction to polling data and daily electoral college projections from the past campaign, Todd—never one to leave well enough alone—fell off the wagon again. Undeterred

and ever hopeful, he is at work on a post-election analysis entitled "Where the Votes Are: The Electoral Geography of the Coming Democratic Majority."

He was an invited discussant at a conference last fall, "The Covenant and American Liberty in the Work of Daniel J. Elazar," which examined the writings of the political theorist who did some of the important early work on the concept of political culture. Todd also refereed an article for *Journal of the Early Republic*.

He wrote four book reviews this year, all of which are forthcoming in journals. They include biographies of Charles Willson Peale (for *American Nineteenth Century History*) and Benjamin Rush (for *Pennsylvania History*), and two important new works on politics, John Howe's *Language and Political Meaning in Revolutionary America* and Richard Beeman's *The Varieties of Political Experience in Eighteenth Century America*, both for the journal *XVIII: New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century*.

Todd, wife Kathy Pfeiffer, and children Elizabeth, 8, and Brian, 2, are enjoying their new home. One of the highlights of Todd's day comes when he walks into Brian's room in the morning to be greeted with a smile and the word, "Dad-DEE, dad-DEE!" It's enough to warm the hearts of Federalists and Jeffersonians alike.

Since the last Newsletter
Professor Ron Finucane
(Medieval England and Europe) has seen two of his books, originally issued in hardcover, re-issued as paperbacks—one (the first he wrote, *Miracles and Pilgrims*, published in England in 1977) for the third time; the other is his book on the Crusades (*Soldiers of the Faith*), also originally published in England, in 1983. His chapter entitled "The

Toddler in the Ditch: A 14th-Century Case of Parental Negligence?" has been accepted for publication in a collection of essays about medieval trials. It seems that historical interest in faith healing continues, since Ron was asked to submit an article on medieval cures for publication in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*. This has been completed and accepted. Speaking of Oxford, his article on a 13th-century bishop (Thomas Cantilupe) is to be found in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. IX (2004). Recent research outings have taken him to a "History of the Book" seminar at the Newberry Library in Chicago and to the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto. Thanks to a generous fellowship awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, he will once again be working at the Vatican in June 2005, researching book #5, on the politics behind the invention of saints between 1482 and 1622. He may actually look forward to resuming teaching in September, after enjoying his winter 2005 sabbatical and Roman investigations. Or not.

Professor Derek Hastings (Modern Germany) spent part of the summer of 2004 in Munich conducting archival research for his first book, a study of the religious identity of the early Nazi movement. During the academic year he also completed several other projects, including a lengthy article on religion and gender in modern Germany (currently under consideration with an academic journal), two book reviews, and a couple of conference papers—one presented at the annual conference of the German Studies Association in Washington, DC in October 2004 and another presented at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Seattle in January 2005. In early April

he gave a public lecture on the Holocaust and the problem of memory as part of OU's commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. After receiving an OU Faculty Research Fellowship this year, Derek will spend the entire summer of 2005 in Munich and Berlin, continuing work on his book manuscript. Derek and his wife Kris also recently bought a house, which threatens to absorb all his free time.

Professor Mary Karasch (Latin America, Brazil) was invited to give one of the two keynote speeches at the symposium, "The African Diaspora to Latin America: New Directions in Scholarship," at Northwestern University in April 2005. She spoke on "Slave Identity in Brazil: Recent Trends in Scholarship since 1988." This was the same lecture that she gave in Portuguese in May of 2004 at the Congresso Internacional Resgate in Brazil. This congress, which was held at the University of Brasilia, brought together historians from Brazil, the United States, and Europe to honor the completion of the massive archival project to make copies on CDs of the Portuguese manuscripts relative to Brazil from the Overseas Archive in Lisbon. The Library of Congress in Washington, DC will have a complete copy of the CDs for the colonial period.

After the meeting in Brasilia and a tour of a major exhibit of colonial maps, she went north to the state of Tocantins to participate in a regional historical meeting at the new Federal University of Tocantins in Palmas, the capital of the state. She also went on a collaborative research trip to the small town of Natividade, which has recently been named a historic monument and is in the process of historical renovations. Her research group included anthropologists, historians, and students.

Afterwards, she traveled to the state of Goiás and met with professors at the Federal University of Goiás in Goiânia and the state university in Anápolis. In Rio de Janeiro she was invited to speak to graduate students at the Federal University in Niterói, where she was interviewed for a forthcoming popular history article.

Mary has been on sabbatical and will be on unpaid leave in fall 2005. She's writing her book, tentatively titled "Frontier Life in Central Brazil," as well as a collaborative article with David McCreery of Georgia State University for an edited collection of essays, *The Native Peoples of Colonial Brazil*. In fall 2004 she completed an essay, "Mulheres Negras y Trabajo Esclavo en Brasil, siglo XIX," which will be published in Spain in 2006. She will take a month off in July to participate in two conferences in Brazil: one on indigenous warfare in Londrina, Paraná, and the other in Rio de Janeiro. She will also give a lecture based on "Mulheres Negras" at the University in Campinas, São Paulo.

Professor Don Matthews (Modern Middle East) has recently completed a paper about the National Liberation League, a Palestinian Arab leftist political party in the 1940s. The piece is based on information he compiled last year on an OU Faculty Research Grant in London and Jerusalem. He presented the state of his research at the conference of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies in Orlando, Florida in April 2005. In addition, he has under review an article he recently finished on the relationship between pan-Arab nationalism and Palestinian territorial nationalism in the 1930s. His current project examines cross-cultural transfers of ideas about race, nation,

history, and progress. It focuses on a Lebanese Druze intellectual's analysis of a work by an American racial theorist in 1926.

Professor Karen Miller (US 1877-present, Diplomatic, Political) has spent most of her energies this year preparing new courses. "The Vietnam War" was developed with the goal of making it a permanent addition to the curriculum. In addition, she developed the course "The American Presidency Since Franklin Roosevelt" as part of the College of Arts and Sciences' special project on the presidency. She has now refocused her energies on a book project concerning the Republican party in the 1920s.

Adjunct Professor Jayne Morris Crowther (US) had her research "Municipal Housekeeping: The Political Activities of the Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs in the 1920s" published in the *Michigan Historical Review*.

In addition to the typical chairman's routine, **Professor Carl Osthaus** (Civil War and Reconstruction, American South) was busy this year worrying over "History Comes Alive" and seeing that it didn't suffer a slow death. He also spent (wasted?) considerable time trying to understand the jargon of the new general education setup and oversee the department's participation in it, and he also devoted precious time to furthering the tedious process of undergraduate and graduate program reviews. His article, "The Work Ethic of the Plain Folk: Labor and Religion in the Old South," finally appeared in the *Journal of Southern History* in November. In the fall, before general education headaches and position search activities pushed history aside, he published a book review in the *Journal of American History*,

reviewed a manuscript article for that journal, and chaired a panel at the Great Lakes History Conference titled "Politics, Finance, and Progress in Nineteenth-Century America." The latter experience, he reports, was a hoot since one of the presenters, a bright, young economist, wrote on branch banking and the Freedman's Savings Bank under the assumption that the author of an old book on that subject (Professor Osthaus) had gone to his reward. Professor Osthaus reports that he did his best to be lively and thoroughly enjoyed his bodily and scholarly resurrection.

EMERITI NEWS

Professor Jack Barnard's *American Vanguard: The United Auto Workers During the Reuther Years, 1935-1970* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2004) was selected by the State Library of Michigan as a "Notable Michigan Book." *American Vanguard* also received a very favorable review in the *Journal of American History*.

Professor Richard Tucker has kept in touch as always despite continent hopping. His last e-mail indicated that he and Lia had spent several months in Hawaii and were heading for India to visit Richard's daughter and family. Richard and Lia are planning a two-week trip to Turkey and then will return to Ann Arbor for a major stretch of the summer. After that it will be a return to Hawaii and India. Richard reports that he is writing an abridged student edition of *Insatiable Appetite* for a new world history series to be published by Rowman and Littlefield. Last fall Oregon University Press published his co-edited volume, *Natural Enemy, Natural Ally: Toward an Environmental History of War*.

PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta survived major losses to graduation to have a very successful year, including the induction of 25 new members. This year's president, **David Johnson**, was a bit lonely at meetings in the fall, but his patience and perseverance were rewarded with a buzz of activity and events in the winter semester. Our President's Day Lecture featured Professor Marty Hershock from U-M Dearborn, who spoke on "Freedom's Laboratory: Michigan's Contested Path from Territory to Statehood." A number of Phi Alpha Theta members, both past and present, met with National Book Award-winning historian Kevin Boyle during his visit in March. Two of our members, **David Johnson** and **Kaitlin Scardo**, presented papers at the Regional Conference at Eastern Michigan University. Kaitlin won a prize for best paper by a graduate student. The annual Induction Dinner featured Professor Jace Crouch speaking on the traditional topic for the event, "Why I Became a Historian." PAT sponsored a lecture by sociologist Bob Ross, who was touring in support of his new book, *Slaves to Fashion: Poverty & Abuse in the New Sweatshops*. In addition, our second annual "Careers in History" panel discussion offered proof that our graduates can use their history skills in the real world and even make a living. Indeed, most of the panelists earned history degrees at OU, and two of them, **John Bernia** and **Angela LoPiccolo**, were past PAT presidents. **Nancy Segar, Nikki Baxter, Sarah Bauer** and **Sara Fenwick** deserve special thanks for their help in making these events successful.

STUDENTS OF NOTE

History major **Sarah Darnall** won a Provost's Student Research Fellowship for winter semester 2005 for a research project in medieval English history. Under the direction of Professor Jace Crouch, she completed a HST 491 research paper titled "Foreign Influence in Late Anglo-Saxon England: A Modern Approach to a Pre-Conquest Occupation." In her paper she addressed the emergence during the eleventh century of an internationalized English nobility in England, where Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Danish noblemen and noblewomen possessed various marriage, diplomatic, and military alliances and allegiances throughout the Old North. Sarah worked with various 9th through 13th century sources pertinent to her topic, not only traditional sources such as the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and various 11th, 12th and 13th century English, French, and Anglo-Norman sources, but also lesser known sources from Scandinavia, such as the *Knytlinga Saga* and *Heimskringla*, as well as Irish sources such as the *Ulster Annals* and the *Annals of the Four Masters*, and German sources such as *Chronicle of Thietmar of Merseburg*. Sarah also read some of the more recent approaches to ethnogenesis studies, works by Omeljan Pritsak, Walter Pohl, and Andreas Schwarcz, which were useful in understanding the emergence of a "national" identity in a formative period characterized by various ethnic and linguistic groups competing and collaborating across a common region.

James Gajewski was named a University Student Research Scholar in 2004 and was mentored by history faculty

member Linda Benson. As an international studies major and history minor, James focused his research project on the ways in which Chinese student movements of the 1980s are remembered today by the current generation of university students. It was based on research conducted in China over a period of several months in China. The paper he produced as a result of his research has been submitted for publication in the *Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal*, which publishes undergraduate writing on Asian nations.

History major **Stephen Gutwald** has been awarded a Werner Holzbock Humanities Scholarship and **Sarah Bauer** has been awarded the History Department's George T. Matthews Scholarship for 2005-2006. It should be noted that Sarah Bauer is next year's president of Alpha Zeta Upsilon.

ALUMNI NEWS

Michael Honey (BA 1969), who teaches American history and labor and ethnic studies at the University of Washington, Tacoma, has won numerous awards for his last two books on labor and civil rights history of the South. He is currently writing a book on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Memphis Sanitation Strike. He credits **Roy Kotynek**, **George Rawick**, **Henry Rosemont** and other sterling professors at OU with getting him started in the study of history and society.

Steve Lehto (BA 1989) received his JD from Southwestern University in Los Angeles in 1991 and has been teaching courses in Consumer Protection and Trial Practice on an adjunct basis for almost five years at the University of Detroit Law School. In 2004 Tarheel Press published his biography of NASCAR race

champion Bobby Isaac, who won thirty-seven Grand National races in his racing career. Titled *Bobby Isaac: What Speed Looks Like*, Lehto's book tells the story of a hard-living, hard-charging Carolina boy who in 1970 revolutionized stock car racing by winning the Grand National Championship (now the Nextel Cup) in the legendary Dodge Daytona Charger with the Hemi engine, the most powerful engine of its kind at the time. Tarheel Press has expressed interest in Lehto's second book project, a study of the Chrysler Turbine Car experiment in 1963. Although he denies it, Lehto seems to be on his way to becoming a car author-expert. There are worse fates. (The history chair has been enjoying his copy of *What Speed Looks Like* that came with Lehto's letter. He concludes that though he is driving at grandpa-warp speed these days, it is never too late to learn about things Southern.)

Mark Sloboda (BA 1994) writes that he is a custodian for the city of Southfield and has currently completed ten credits toward the MA in history at Eastern Michigan University. Recalling Jack Barnard's discussion of the UAW in HST 300, he expresses his delight with the publication of *American Vanguard*. Mark extends his best wishes to Roy Kotynek on his retirement and articulates what others have said—that Roy's History of the Mass Media course will be missed.

Jennifer Sponseller (BA 2001) will begin graduate work in history at the University of Manchester, Manchester, England this fall. Jeni studied with De Witt Dykes and Linda Benson, among others, at OU. For several years Jeni has lived in Taiwan.

Karen Stahl (BA 1999) received her MLS in 2002 from the

University of Maryland. She has recently accepted a new position at the Nuclear Regulatory commission in Rockville, Maryland, where she is to be a Technical Librarian in the Public Document Room and in the ADAMS Support Center Section. Previously Ms. Stahl held the position of Reference Librarian under contract with the Environmental Protection Agency.

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We are happy to recognize once more the generosity of our alumni, friends of the department, emeriti, and current faculty. Your donations help us to bring featured speakers and events to campus, recruit new faculty, purchase computer equipment for faculty research, support small faculty and student research grants, and secure the occasional reference book or collection of documents to keep here in the department for faculty and student consultation. Apart from tax benefits and the gratification that meaningful giving provides, you have our thanks for helping to support so many varied academic "extras" which make OU the excellent institution that it is. We hope that the generous support of our alumni, friends, emeriti and faculty will continue and that others will join the ranks of our honored donors. We apologize if there are errors or omissions in our list of donors below. Please let us know if we have erred in any way. Thank you.

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